CGHC010398052026 2026:CGHC:45854

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HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

MCRC No. 9646 of 2026

1 - Maniram S/o Ratiram Baiga Aged About 40 Years R/o Village Deharipathra, Police Station Pandatarai Tehsil Bodla Distt- Kabirdham (C.G.)

KUNAL DEWANGAN

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2 - Ganpat S/o Birjhu Baiga Aged About 40 Years R/o Village Deharipathra, Police Station Pandatarai Tehsil Bodla Distt- Kabirdham (C.G.)

... Applicant(s)

versus

State Of Chhattisgarh Through Fores Division Bodla, Distt- Kabirdham (C.G.)

... Non-Applicant(s)

For Applicants	**:**	Mr. Aman Upadhyay, Advocate.
For Non-Applicant/State	**:**	Mr. Jitendra Shrivastava, Govt. Advocate.

Hon'ble Mr. Rakesh Mohan Pandey, Judge

Order on Board

29/10/2026

1. The applicants have preferred this first bail application under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, for grant of regular bail, as they have been arrested in connection with P.O.R. No. 21942/11, registered at Police Station- Forest Division Bodla, District Kabirdham (C.G.), for the offences punishable under

Sections 2(16), 9, 39(1), 39(3), 44, 50, 51(1), 51(2) and 52 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. As per the prosecution case, in brief, on 29.06.2026, the Forest Department officials received secret information regarding the illegal hunting of a Axis Deer (Chital), a protected wild animal, by co-accused Kamleshu Patel. Upon conducting a search at his house, the officials allegedly seized two axes, nylon rope, a blood-stained bag and meat kept in a steel container. During the course of investigation, co-accused Kamleshu Patel, in his memorandum statement, disclosed that he had hunted the Axis Deer (Chital) along with Shyamlal Patel, Sanat Patel and the present applicants, Maniram Baiga and Ganpat Baiga and that the meat was subsequently distributed amongst them. Accordingly, the aforesaid forest offences were registered and the applicants were arrested on 30.06.2026.

3. Learned counsel for the applicants would submit that the applicants are innocent and have been falsely implicated in the present case. He would further submit that the alleged meat and other articles were seized from the exclusive possession of co-accused Kamleshu Patel and no incriminating article has been recovered from the present applicants. Their implication is based primarily on the memorandum statement of the co-accused and the species identification report is still awaited. He would also submit that co-accused Kamleshu Patel and Sanat Patel have already been granted bail by the learned Sessions Court and that the applicants

stand on a similar footing however, the applicant Maniram has one criminal antecedent of theft nature but the applicant Ganpat has no criminal antecedents. Accordingly, he prays for grant of bail to the applicants.

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel would oppose the prayer for grant of bail and submit that the applicants were involved in the illegal hunting of a protected wild animal and that, as disclosed in the memorandum statement of co-accused Kamleshu Patel, the meat was distributed amongst them and further the applicant Maniram has one criminal antecedent and Ganpat has no criminal antecedents. Therefore, he prays for rejection of the bail application.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the case diary.

6. Having considered the facts and circumstances of the case, nature and gravity of the offences alleged against the applicants, the fact that the alleged meat and other articles were seized from the possession of co-accused Kamleshu Patel, the applicants' implication being primarily based on the memorandum statement of the co-accused and the fact that two co-accused persons have already been granted bail by the learned Sessions Court on similar allegations, this Court finds that the applicants are also entitled for grant of bail. It is also relevant that applicant Maniram Baiga has one criminal antecedent, whereas applicant Ganpat Baiga has no criminal antecedents. Accordingly, without further commenting upon

the merits of the case, this Court is inclined to grant bail to the applicants.

7. Accordingly, the bail application of the applicants is **allowed**. It is directed that in the event of the applicants executing a personal bond for a sum of Rs.50,000/- with one surety each in the like sum to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court, they shall be released on bail on the following conditions:-

(i) they shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade them from disclosing such fact to the Court;

(ii) they shall not act in any manner which will be prejudicial to fair and expeditious trial, &

(iii) they shall appear before the trial Court on each and every date given to them by the said Court till disposal of the trial.

Sd/-
(Rakesh Mohan Pandey)
Judge

Kunal